

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace paragraph [0003], which spans page 1-2 with the following amended paragraph:

[0003] The TGF- β family is a number of structurally-related growth factors, all of which possess physiologically important growth-regulatory and morphogenetic properties (Kingsley *et al.* (1994) *Genes Dev.*, 8:133-146; Hoodless *et al.* (1998) *Curr. Topics Microbiol. Immunol.*, 228:235-272). These factors include bone morphogenetic proteins (BMP), activin, inhibin, mullerian inhibiting substance, glial-derived neurotrophic factor, and a still growing number of growth and differentiation factors (GDF), such as GDF-8. Many of these proteins are highly homologous. For example, human BMP-11, also known as GDF-11, is 90% identical to GDF-8 at the amino-acid level (Gamer *et al.* (1999) *Dev. Biol.* 208:222-232; <http://www.renmyrick.com> Nakashima *et al.* (1999) *Mech. Dev.* 80:185-189).